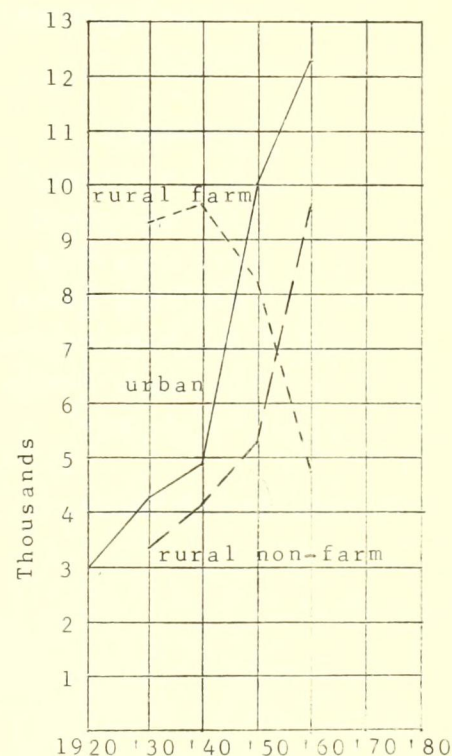


Sanford is the only urban area in Lee County. In 1966, Sanford had a population of 12,573, or 43 percent of the county total. The proportion of the county living in Sanford has not deviated greatly from this percentage since 1950 following the consolidation of Jonesboro and Sanford and the annexation of adjacent developed areas. The proportion of Lee County classified as urban (Sanford) is well below that of the United States. Lee County has a rural agricultural background but is becoming increasingly urbanized and less oriented toward agriculture. To a large extent the proportion of the county classified as urban depends upon the annexation policies of the City of Sanford. While only 45.5 percent of the county's population in 1960 lived in Sanford, an additional 36.5 percent of the county population was classified as rural non-farm. Only 18 percent of the county was considered "rural-farm" in 1950. Based on sample survey of farm population for the Census of Agriculture, the farm population has probably decreased to less than 15 percent of the 1966 county population.

The greatest population increases are taking place in the rural non-farm population of Lee County. Most of the rural non-farm population lives in the area adjacent to the present corporate limits of Sanford. The two townships which had the greatest increases between 1960 and 1966 were Jonesboro and West Sanford Townships. The increases within these two townships occurred in the area outside the corporate limits. The portion of Sanford in East Sanford Township actually decreased in population during the period. The four rural townships accounted for only 11 percent of the total increase. This trend of suburban development will probably continue as the farm population decreases. Thus, the rural non-farm population is increasing in all areas but is concentrated in the fringe around Sanford.

URBAN-RURAL POPULATION



LEE COUNTY URBAN-RURAL POPULATION